



**MINUTES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT**

REGULAR MEETING

RUSH PARK
3021 Blume Drive
Rossmoor, California

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

A. ORGANIZATION

1. CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

2. ROLL CALL:

Present: Directors Barke, DeMarco, Nitikman, Searles
President Rips (via Zoom)

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Director DeMarco led the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. PRESENTATIONS:

a. Recognition of Fernando Molina upon his retirement from 38 years of service as Tennis Instructor for the Rossmoor Community Services District

The Board recognized Fernando Molina for his 38 years of service as a Tennis Instructor for the Rossmoor Community Services District and congratulated him on his retirement.

b. Proclamation of Appreciation to Outgoing First Vice President Mark Nitikman

The Board presented a Proclamation to Outgoing First Vice President Mark Nitikman in appreciation for his service on the RCSD Board.

B. ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - None

C. PUBLIC FORUM

First Vice President Nitikman invited comments from the public.

Maryam Guirao, Director of Development for The Youth Center, narrated a PowerPoint presentation with an update on their community activities.

Maureen Wauters thanked Director Nitikman for his service and wished him well; discussed the room that RCSD is making available to the Sheriff's Department to use as an office at Rush Park and hoped the Sheriff's Department will take advantage of the offer to utilize this space as they serve Rossmoor.

There were no other public comments.

D. REPORTS TO THE BOARD

1. QUARTERLY RECREATION REPORT

General Manager Joe Mendoza introduced Recreation Superintendent Chris Argueta and deferred to him for a presentation.

Recreation Superintendent Argueta provided highlights of recent activities and discussed upcoming events including a Blood Drive on November 16, 2022, the Rossmoor Neighborhood Compost Giveaway on November 19 and the Rossmoor Winter Festival scheduled for December 10.

Discussion followed regarding attendance numbers for various programs and the length of time staff has been tracking the information.

There were no public comments on this item.

2. UPDATE REGARDING POTENTIAL PICKLEBALL PROGRAM

General Manager Mendoza provided information regarding the potential pickleball program; discussed the evaluation process; referenced reports from other cities and agencies regarding their solutions for implementing pickleball programs; noted this is a process and there is no right or wrong way to approach it; stated the District is being very diligent in approaching the subject; addressed consultants; talked about an in-depth study conducted for the City of La Cañada/Flintridge; shared emails from Lance Willis of Spendiarian and Willis Acoustics Noise and Control with results of studies and an estimate of \$4,000 for a simulated study for Rossmoor and Rush Parks. Additionally, the General Manager shared a proposal/quote from Gary Hardesty of Sound Media Fusion LLC for a simulated study that his company will be conducting. In addition, Mr. Mendoza recommended patience while the item is being carefully studied.

Director Searles thanked residents for their participation and comments; reported he instructed General Manager Mendoza to install "No Pickleball" signs at the existing tennis courts in Rossmoor Park; recommended maintaining the promises made about improvements to the parks ahead of the pickleball financing and stated priorities are things that have been promised in terms of improvements at both parks.

Director Nitikman referenced several emails received regarding the subject and requested including them in the meeting minutes.

Discussion followed regarding practices in the City of Seal Beach and the City of Cerritos, setting a policy on handling and responding to emails, including copies of emails in agenda packets and the status of current projects.

Discussion followed regarding establishing a policy for receipt and reporting of written comments/emails submitted to the Board.

General Counsel Tarquin Preziosi, via Zoom, reported that typically, other cities provide a cut-off point on the agenda by which emails must be received and are typically included with that agenda item and if not, they are communicated to the Board as general correspondence and will be distributed to the governing body, as well.

President Rips invited public comments.

Ralph Vartabedian spoke about heavily used parks at Rossmoor and Rush Parks and suggested residents could install pickleball courts in their private backyards, similar to those that install pools in their yards.

Rob Kaplan stated that something that is fun is not a pressing need if it is going to impinge on other elements of the life of people in a community; adding that something that causes conflict is not a way to bring a joyous activity to a community. He felt that it is important to take a step back and make sure this subject is analyzed in the right kind of way; noted this is not a need and that repairs that have been promised and talked about for years are more important to address and urged the Board to do the things that must be done, and not simply because they are fun to do.

Maureen Wauters reported she has been attending RCSD Board meetings for years; indicated she would like to have pickleball in the community of Rossmoor; expressed confidence that the Board will be able to develop a plan that is satisfactory to most residents and stated she believes the people against pickleball are causing the conflict and not those who want to play pickleball.

Michelle Wilson appreciated General Manager Mendoza's research; spoke about the availability of data from other communities; acknowledged that although pickleball is fun and enjoyable, that does not necessarily make it a fit for small community parks.

Carol Churchill, thanked General Manger Mendoza for his effort to investigate and research pickleball in other communities; stated his efforts constitute transparency and gives the community confidence about the decisions being made by the Board; thanked General Manager Mendoza for installing lights on the north side of the building and questioned whether the noise study scheduled for Monday, November 14, will be relevant without first having a site plan.

Taya Kaminsky spoke in support of keeping tennis lessons and coaches at Rossmoor Park; suggested the possibility of installing noise mitigation around pickleball courts.

Sue Kaplan opined that the Board has put the cart before the horse and suggested stepping back for a reset; spoke about failed pickleball implementations in nearby neighborhood parks; discussed accounting for discretionary funds for new projects; recommended a valid study to determine the interest in pickleball from Rossmoor property tax payers and subsequently obtain an unbiased, urban

planning project study to evaluate potential sites in Rossmoor and urged RCSD to take its time in doing it right.

Heidi Swanson reported there are hundreds of residents in Rossmoor who are active pickleball players; felt it would be wonderful to be able to use facilities in the area and noted that tennis courts at Rossmoor Park are not being 100% utilized.

Zoe Hagman suggested installing one pickleball court at Rush Park and another at Rossmoor Park.

Victor Pedroza spoke about his experience playing tennis in Rossmoor; discussed putting a new sport in the community; urged the Board not to take away what exists; talked about needing pickleball but ensuring a good analysis and an appropriate place to play.

There were no other public comments and President Rips closed public comments.

3. MONTHLY TRAFFIC SAFETY UPDATE

General Manager Mendoza provided a brief update of items discussed at the recent Traffic Committee meeting and spoke about a recent visit from Supervisor Do.

4. STREET SWEEPING UPDATE

General Manager Mendoza discussed the sign installation in connection with street sweeping enforcement; reported Phases 2 has been completed and stated that Phase 3 will begin in January 2023 when the project will be completed.

Discussion followed regarding the installation of signs in cul-de-sacs.

President Rips invited public comments.

Maureen Wauters reported she lives on a cul-de-sac and her neighbors have elected her to advocate for having the cul-de-sac swept on the same day (either odd or even).

General Manager Mendoza will follow-up on the matter.

E. CONSENT CALENDAR

1. MINUTES:

- a. Regular RCSD Board Meeting of October 11, 2022

Motion by Director DeMarco, seconded by Director Searles to approve Consent Calendar Item No. 1, as presented. Motion passed 4-1, with Director Barke, abstaining.

2. STATUS OF JULY, AUGUST, SEPTEMBER 2022 REVENUE AND EXPENDITURE REPORTS

3. LONG TERM/NONPROFIT USER PERMIT RENEWALS FOR USE OF DISTRICT PROPERTY
4. APPROVAL OF VACATION BUY-BACK SUBMITTALS FOR RCSD EMPLOYEES REQUESTING PARTICIPATION IN THE DECEMBER 2022 BUY-BACK PROGRAM

Motion by Director DeMarco, seconded by Director Searles to approve Consent Calendar Items No. 2, 3 and 4, as presented. Motion passed 5-0.

F. PUBLIC HEARING: None

G. RESOLUTIONS: None

ORDINANCES: None

H. REGULAR CALENDAR

1. FEE WAIVER REQUEST: 25TH ANNUAL CASINO NIGHT FUNDRAISER HOSTED BY THE YOUTH CENTER

General Manager Mendoza presented details of the report; noted RCSD could not duplicate the services offered by The Youth Center.

Discussion followed regarding facility usage fees and refundable fees (deposits), waiving a total of \$600 including a \$20 processing fee for Administrative Staff, whether RCSD has waived fees for any other non-profit in the past, and concerns about setting precedence.

Motion by Director Nitikman, seconded by Director Barke, to deny the fee waiver request from The Youth Center. Motion passed 5-0.

Motion by Director Nitikman, seconded by Director DeMarco, to grant the request for a waiver to permit The Youth Center to serve alcohol during their event. Motion passed 5-0.

2. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT PROGRAMS & SERVICES SATISFACTION SURVEY 2022

General Manager Mendoza presented the staff report.

Director Nitikman indicated he would like to approve the survey and discussed increasing the response rate by offering an incentive to all that respond.

Discussion followed regarding the number of households the survey will reach on Survey Monkey, restricting the survey to one response per device, distribution of the survey information, costs for mailing a postcard to each household, the intent of the survey, having a booth at the Winter Festival to distribute survey information and using RHA's, RCSD's and the Chamber of Commerce email lists.

Maureen Wauters suggested including a note for those who are technically challenged that if they need a hard copy, they should call the RCSD office to request one, and offered to deliver these to residents as needed.

Motion by Director Barke, seconded by Director DeMarco, to approve the survey, as written and direct the General Manager to investigate options for distributing the survey. Motion passed 5-0.

I. GENERAL MANAGER ITEMS

General Manager Mendoza reported adding security lighting to the east side of the Rush Park Administration Building; discussed use of eBikes in the park; stated that in conjunction with the CHP, an educational event will be scheduled for eBike users; addressed re-keying Rush Park; spoke about the Personnel and Contract Committee meeting, and contracts for West Coast Arborists and Tennis instructors; and commented on upcoming interviews for the Administrative Assistant position.

J. BOARD MEMBER ITEMS

Director DeMarco spoke about Ralph Vartabedian writing negatively about the RCSD Board; suggested that RCSD do a yearly survey; reminded the public about the Winter Festival, the compost giveaway and the Farmers Market; paid tribute to all Veterans and thanked outgoing Director Nitikman for his service on the Board.

Director Searles expressed frustration at the divisiveness related to pickleball; urged the public to keep civility; spoke about denial of some grant requests; commented on the resident satisfaction survey and agreed to make it an annual task and include related expenses in the budget; congratulated Director Nitikman on his retirement from the RCSD Board and thanked him for his service.

Director Nitikman discussed RCSD's great communication with residents on important issues; spoke about the importance of fostering communication from the community and actively reaching out; thanked everyone who participated in the meeting; expressed concerns regarding an increase in partisanship and thanked the Board, staff and community members for their support.

President Rips spoke about the need for an in-service training for the Board to learn how to use the microphones more effectively; commented favorably about the survey; agreed to conduct them more frequently; referenced the article by Ralph Vartabedian; thanked Mr. Mendoza for his work and efforts; and thanked the Board, staff and community members for their support.

K. GENERAL COUNSEL ITEMS

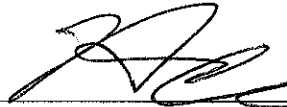
General Counsel Tarquin Preziosi, via Zoom, thanked Director Nitikman for his years of service on the RCSD Board.

L. ADJOURNMENT

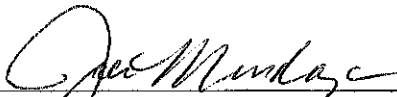
Motion by Director Barke, seconded by President Rips, to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:23 p.m. Motion passed 5-0.

ATTEST:

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
ROSSMOOR COMMUNITY SERVICES DISTRICT



Nathan Searles, Second Vice President



Joe Mendoza, Secretary
Rossmoor Community Services District

APPROVED: December 13, 2022